

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A water-based cement paint comprising:  
uncured cement particles constituting 5–40% by mass of the paint;  
colloidally-sized particles of a polymeric material that forms a stable colloid in water  
constituting 0.25–10% by mass of the paint; and  
water.

17. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the cement particles are portland cement particles that constitute 10–30% by mass of the paint and the colloidally-sized particles constitute 1–6% by mass of the paint.

18. (New) The paint of claim 17, wherein the cement particles constitute 12–18% by mass of the paint, and the colloidally-sized particles constitute 1.5–3% by mass of the paint.

19. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the cement particles are grey portland cement particles.

20. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the cement particles are white portland cement particles.

21. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the colloidally-sized particles are fibrous.

22. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the polymeric material is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

23. (New) The paint of claim 16, wherein the colloidally-sized particles have a particle size in the range 1–100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

24. (New) The paint of claim 16, further comprising an uncured particulate elastomer capable of curing upon exposure to the atmosphere.

25. (New) The paint of claim 24, wherein the elastomer is a latex constituting 5–60% by mass of the paint and having an average particle size in the range of 0.08–1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
26. (New) The paint of claim 25, wherein the latex constitutes 20–50% by mass of the paint and has a particle size in the range 0.1–0.7  $\mu\text{m}$ .
27. (New) The paint of claim 16, further comprising 0.1–0.6% by mass hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener.
28. (New) The paint of claim 16, further comprising 1–15% by mass of at least one pigment.
29. (New) The paint of claim 28, wherein the pigment is a particulate inorganic pigment constituting 2–10% by mass of the paint and having an average particle size in the range of 0.05–100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
30. (New) The paint of claim 16, further defined as a blend of constituents stored in the absence of air.
31. (New) The paint of claim 30, further defined as having a shelf-life of several months or more.
32. (New) The paint of claim 16, further defined as comprised in a single-pack form container.
33. (New) The paint of claim 32, further defined as comprised in a can and having an in-can shelf-life of at least several months.
34. (New) A process for formulating a water-based cement paint of claim 16 comprising:  
suspending the colloidally-sized polymer particles in water to form a colloidal suspension; and  
admixing the cement particles with the colloidal suspension to form a paint comprising the water, cement, and colloidally-sized polymer particles.
35. (New) The process of claim 34, further comprising admixing elastomer particles with the water to form the colloidal suspension, before admixing the cement particles with the suspension.